

We claim:

1. A method of rewriting a Structure Query Language (SQL) statement in order to prevent processing of a join between a master table and a detail table in a database, the join having a join condition, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a. determining in the SQL statement a unique identifier to a row of the master table;
 - b. equating the unique identifier to an identifier to related rows of the detail table using the join condition;
 - c. producing a revised SQL statement that only refers to the detail table using the identifier to the at least one row of the detail table; and,
 - d. processing the revised SQL statement.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the unique identifier to a row of the master table is indexed.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the unique identifier to a row of the master table is a primary key.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the identifier to at least one row of the detail table is a foreign key.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the join condition is an equality between a column of the master table and a column of the detail table.
6. A computer program comprising computer program code means adapted to perform the steps of claim 1 when said program is run on a computer.
7. A computer program product comprising program code means stored on a computer readable medium for performing the method of claim 1 when said program is run on a computer.